

New Central American Republic.

The expedition of Col. Kinney and his fellow adventurers to the Mosquito territory for the establishment of a new Central American Republic has assumed a consistency that shows it will soon become one of the actual facts of the age. A grant of the greater portion of the Mosquito territory was made many years since by the King of the Mosquitoes to Samuel Shepherd and two associates for a pecuniary consideration, amounting to about thirty thousand pounds, and it is under a transfer of that title, that the present company, consisting of some thirty gentlemen, among whom are Senator Cooper, of Pennsylvania, and William Cost Johnson, of Maryland, are acting. Col. Kinney goes out as the agent and representative of this company. He is well known as the leader of the Texas rangers in the Texan struggle, and is noted for his resolution and energy.—The members of the expedition will number about a thousand, and each will receive, on landing, a certain allotment of land from the company's possessions. All pretense of filibustering in connection with the enterprise is disclaimed. The design of the parties to the enterprise is explained to be, to found a new independent republic on the Mosquito coast; then to take measures for a convention from the republics of Nicaragua, Honduras, San Salvador, Costa Rica, Veragua and New Granada, in order to adopt a federal constitution and establish a government analogous to that of the North American Union.

It is stated that the most enlightened men in these various countries are decidedly in favor of the undertaking, and have confidence in its practicability. The lands originally ceded to Shepherd and his associates comprise about thirty millions of acres, and its transfer to the present owners has been pronounced by high legal authority to be perfectly valid. If successful in forming a convention with the states mentioned above, the new republic would extend over an area of five hundred thousand square miles. The enterprise, if it can be peacefully and legally carried out, promises to be of immense benefit to Central America as well as to our own country. It would give value to territory that is now almost useless, provide stable institutions for a country that has been desolated by revolutions and changes, and settle forever the troublesome questions between our own government and that of Great Britain of which Central America has been the fertile cause. The only opposition arises from Nicaragua, the government of which claims proprietorship of the soil ceded, and threatens to protest to our own and other governments against the alleged invasion of her rights. In regard to this phase of the case the Washington Union says:

If the government of Nicaragua shall object to the enterprise, it will present a question between the colonists and that government, with which the United States will have no connection. The colonists do not violate any law in voluntarily expatriating themselves and seeking a residence in Central America. They will not go as an organized military association, but as individuals, upon their own responsibility, and at their own risk. They do not constitute a secret band of adventurers, but they make their claim to the soil in open day, point to the evidences of their title, and avow their plans and purposes in the most public manner. Their expedition is purely peaceful, and undertaken in no spirit of aggression.—They do not go as American citizens, either instigated or encouraged to emigrate by our government, but they voluntarily determine to change their residence and their citizenship, and to do so publicly and peacefully. In this view, we cannot see that our government can be complicated in any way in the enterprise. But, to avoid all misapprehensions, it is proper to remark that we know nothing of the views of our government on the subject, and the sentiments we express are our own.—[Baltimore Amer.]

The taxes levied in New York city the present year, says the Post, amount to \$4,941,255.51, of which \$4,439,867 was paid during the quarter ending Dec. 1st. There will be an addition of one per cent. on the remainder.

Prospective Price of Breadstuffs.

The Buffalo Democracy contains an interesting article on this subject. The result of its estimates, facts, and speculations is, that breadstuffs will remain at about their present price in New York, till another crop. Various causes are cited which gave rise to the late high prices. As the rates in New York depend upon the price in Mark Lane, England, the fall of prices there, has produced a corresponding fall in New York.—Crops were never more abundant in England, and the amount required for foreign nations in much less than heretofore. But, the liberal prices of labor, and the possession of the means to buy, have increased the amount of consumption in England, and the market was found to be nearly bare in the fall, at a time when the ordinary rules of consumption indicated that there should be a large surplus on hand.

It is estimated that wheat to the extent of 144,000,000 bushels is now annually consumed in the United Kingdom. The crop of 1854 is estimated at 129,600,000 bushels, leaving a deficit of 14,400,000 bushels to be supplied from abroad. For eight years preceding the present war, the average annual deficit in Great Britain has been 72,000,000 bushels, and it has been gathered from other nations in the following proportions:

Russia	about 10,000,000	Naples	about 600,000
Turkey	2,900,000	United States	8,800,000
Wallachia and Moldavia	3,200,000	Belgium	960,000
Egypt	6,000,000	Holland	1,600,000
Denmark	7,200,000	Hanover	1,440,000
Prussia	8,000,000	Hanseatic towns	2,000,000
Sweden &c.	1,000,000	Canada	1,200,000
Austria &c.	1,000,000	Other countries	6,200,000
France	10,000,000	Total	72,000,000

Supplies from some of these countries are now cut off. From Russia it has ceased, and France wants all its supply for home consumption. It is evident, however, that unless a much larger amount than 14,000,000 bushels is required, we shall not be called upon by an extra demand for an increase of supply.

The almost total failure of the grape and wine crop in France has deranged the breadstuffs market, and is producing singular results. To supply the place of the wines and brandies now minus by this failure, the distillation of grain commenced with great rapidity. The government perceiving, at once, this would seriously affect the market, and increase the prices, issued an order prohibiting the further distillation of grains for the coming year. The deficiency in liquors will be supplied to France by the importation of cheap sugars, molasses, and whiskey. It is evident that there is no surplus, and it is probable that importations will be necessary, if the war continues. French dealers still entertain the opinion that the present prices will continue, and they are buying on this presumption.

The inference is apparently well founded that the demand for Europe will keep our prices in New York at about the present rate till another season.—[O. S. Journal.]

WELL ANSWERED.—A writer in the National Intelligencer thus disposes of the President's defense of the burning of Greytown:

"If the community at Greytown, as has been so frequently alleged by the defenders of the Administration, were a nest of pirates, and not within the pale of legitimate warfare or consideration, how comes it that the Government of the United States had an official representative there, and that he is going, or has gone, again to reside there? Is it the practice of the American Government to recognize piratical communities, by sending officials to reside among them? And do not those who denounce them as pirates see the alternative that they thus saddle on the shoulders of the Administration? We shall gain nothing in any way by disturbing that affair or provoking further discussion. The sooner we let it sink into oblivion the better, and let us hope it will be long, very long, before the nation or the navy are again placed in the same position.

The Maumee Times says that work upon the Toledo and Illinois railroad has been suspended for the time being, owing to a lack of means to carry it on.

Sevastopol.

We published a letter from Paris some days since, containing new and important statements concerning the purposes of the Russians in regard to the defence of Sevastopol. It was stated in that letter that they had undermined Sevastopol, and were prepared, in case of capture, to blow up the works together with the victorious army, and to withdraw as many of their troops as possible. From the source of this information we had no doubt of its correctness;—and we find incidental confirmation of it in the statements of correspondents of the London press. Thus a letter in the London Morning Herald states that as the French, having pushed their trenches within 180 yards of the Russian flagstaff battery, were carrying a mine forward under that battery, they came upon a Russian mine containing eighteen hundred weight of powder, which they removed by countermining. And another letter in another number of the same paper says:

"Every preparation, I am informed, has been made in Sevastopol to repulse a storming party. In case of the south side being successfully stormed—which even after Alma the Russians do not believe possible—they intend to defend the fortress on the north till the last. For this purpose, all the steamers in the harbor keep up steam day and night, to tow over the line-of-battle ships to the south, and also to remove the troops. Preparations have likewise been made to blow up the various works and fortifications as they are abandoned. It is this latter precaution which will render the storming so bloody to the besiegers."

These things indicate a determination on the part of the Russians, to re-enact the scenes of Moscow, and involve themselves in ruin for the sake of repelling the enemy.—[N. Y. Times.]

The auction sale of Barnum's menagerie, at Williamsburg, New York, on Tuesday last, drew a large attendance of "showmen" and others, including Messrs. Sands, Titus, Howes, Smith, and Robinson, of Cincinnati. The male and female giraffe, now on exhibition at the Museum, were bid in by Barnum, at \$7,500. Nobody would bid for the rhinoceros. Seven elephants, costing originally \$3,000 each, were knocked down to Seth B. Howes for \$2,300 for the whole family.—Another lot, consisting of one lioness, royal Bengal tiger, black bear, spotted hyena, together with sundry monkeys, parrots, and other animals, were purchased by the same gentleman for \$2,500. Barnum, after the sale was over, re-purchased one of the elephants, which, he said, he intended to keep employed on his farm at Bridgeport. Two ornamental carriage wagons, called Tom Thumb's carriages, were sold at \$35 to \$40 each. The sale, I suppose, was all *bona fide*. At any rate a respectable auctioneer presided, and, notwithstanding the general atmosphere of humbug that hangs around and about everything that Barnum does, nobody seemed to suspect that the transaction was a new scheme for raising the wind.

Barnum has cleared, he says, this year, from his traveling menagerie, \$6,000; last year it was \$60,000, and the year before \$71,000. The original cost was \$109,000. High price of feed, &c., have caused the great diminution of receipts.

SOUTH CAROLINA.—The people of this eminently "democratic" State, are the most old-fashioned and conservative of any State in the Union. They do not even elect their governor, but leave it to the legislature to make the selection. They do not trust themselves to vote for electors for President and Vice President. The legislature performs all that service for them. It is a singular state of affairs, in this American Union, in 1854.

By news from the capital of that State, we learn that Gen. James H. Adams has been elected governor for the ensuing term. Of course he is a South Carolina politician, of the locofoco, pro-slavery State rights school. He regards the State as a corporation, and the people as *servants* of the State. In the eye of such a "democrat," the State, like the King, can do no wrong; and in such a State as South Carolina, the last thing heeded is the "voice of the people."—[O. S. Journal.]

Deepening the St. Lawrence River.

The Montreal Herald says, we yesterday mentioned having witnessed the *modus operandi* of Messrs. Maillefert & Raasloof's system of sub-marine blasting; we stated how beautiful was the effect produced upon the superincumbent water, and shall now try to describe what the effect is.

We should premise that until M. Maillefert's discovery, whenever it was found desirable for the removal of rocky obstructions from any navigable channel, it was believed to be necessary to bore the rock with chambers for the blasting powder, which can only be done by using a diving bell. All this labor and expense is now avoided from M. Maillefert's having discovered that the disintegration of almost any character of rock can be effected without boring or mining, but by the simple explosion on its surface of an adequate weight of powder, provided that there be a sufficient depth of water above the rock to resist the main force of the exploding powder, and thus direct it against the substructure of rock.

Thus, all that is required is to regulate your charges of powder—first, with reference to the friability of the surface on which you are required to act, and secondly, to the resistive power of the water above.

The mode of proceeding then is, having ascertained by sounding the exact spot on which it is required to act, to sink the charge of powder, contained in a tin box or chamber, to which is attached a line of copper wire, thoroughly inclosed, to act as a conductor of the electric fluid, by the action of which upon a piece of platinum wire, the charge is ignited.

At Lachine, the rock to be blasted had about seven or eight feet of water above it, and the charges contained one hundred and twenty-five pounds of powder each. The charge having been sunk from a boat, by M. Maillefert, he rowed some fifty or sixty yards off, and applying the end of the wire attached to the charge to a small galvanic battery on board, the explosion was instantaneously effected.

We were unprepared for the splendid spectacle it produced, which we can compare only to a waterspout at sea—a gigantic fountain, of some thirty feet in diameter at its base, forced to about one hundred and fifty feet in height, and tumbling again into the basin with a noise like thunder. The effects of these explosions are as beneficial below as they are beautiful above the water; and we know of no discovery likely to be of more practical benefit in improving the navigation of our splendid river than that of M. Maillefert, for by it is avoided the enormous expense always attendant upon all sub-marine operations, in the removal of boulders or shelves of rock, by which its navigation is greatly endangered.

A CURIOUS SURPRISE—A SEVEN YEARS' SLEEP.—A letter from San Francisco relates a curious incident that occurred there recently. Her Britannic Majesty's exploring ship Plover arrived at San Francisco a short time since, from the Polar sea, where she had been ice-bound since 1847.

When she left San Francisco, some years ago, it was a mere trading station, resorted to by a few vessels in pursuit of hides, and the town or place contained only a few adobe houses. The captain and crew expected to find the same San Francisco in 1854 that they had left in 1847. The captain, therefore, sailed into the bay without a pilot, and approached the city in the evening. He was much amazed at the numerous lights he saw. When he awoke from his dream of seven years, the next morning, he found a noble city occupying the site of the ancient San Francisco. He had known nothing of the Mexican war and cession of California to the United States, and the many other great events that had taken place during the time he had been locked in the frozen regions of the North.

Brown, the editor of the Ohio Farmer, says: The wheat fields every where in Ohio, look green and promising; and pastures ditto.

Mr. Moore, president of the state agricultural society of Michigan, informs us that every wheat field in that state, is being literally eaten up by the fly. Who of our entomologists can suggest a remedy?